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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/629,337	08/01/2000	Mark C. Fowler	0100.0001160	7287
23418	7590	06/17/2005	EXAMINER	
VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ 222 N. LASALLE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60601			CHUNG, DANIEL J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2677	

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/629,337

Applicant(s)

FOWLER ET AL.

Examiner

Daniel J. Chung

Art Unit

2672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 November 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 7-12, 16, 17 and 19-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 and 13-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-21 are presented for examination. This office action is in response to the amendment filed on 11-15-2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 19 recites the limitation "The start point" in line 1-2 of claim 19. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. (it is noted that claim 19 should depend upon claim 18 not claim 17)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3,7-12,16-17 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chang et al (5,040,130) in view of Watanabe et al (US 2001/0013867).

Regarding claims 1-2,9 and 20, Chang et al discloses that the claimed feature of a method for rasterizing primitives, comprising the steps of: determining if a primitive is totally outside [i.e. Fig 4C] a predetermined screen region [i.e. "clipping window" 42, 152 in visible side of Figs 3,7A] or at least partially [i.e. Fig 3A, Fig 4B, Fig 4D, Fig 7A] within the predetermined screen region, discarding the primitive if the primitive [i.e. edge 52c in Fig 4C] is totally outside the screen region [i.e. "visible side"] ("both vertex P1,P2 are dropped, neither is preserved for display", See col 6 line 24-28), finding at least a portion of the primitive [i.e. Fig 3A, Fig 4B, Fig 4D, Fig 7A] that is inside the screen region if the primitive is not totally outside the screen region, filling ["area fill processor"; 29] only pixels in the portion of the primitive that is inside the screen region, when a start vertex for edgewalking the primitive is outside of the screen region [i.e. invisible side], then starting edgewalking with the start vertex and proceeding to an intersection point [i.e. P8', P3',P4',P7' in Fig 3] with the screen region [42] the primitive [40] at which time only the portion of the primitive that is inside ["visible side"] the screen region if filled, wherein if the start vertex of the primitive is inside of the screen region, then filling only pixels in the portion of the primitive that is inside the screen region (See col 17 line 31-35; also see Fig 3, Fig 7, Fig 10-12, Abstract, col 3 line 14-27, col 9 line 60-col 10 line 18, col 17 line 59-65, claims 12 and 17), repeating the method steps for each

primitive of a plurality of primitives ("repeating the above steps until all edges of the boundary-defined area are processed", See col 3 line 17-19, Also See "repeating steps" in claims), and the primitive is a triangle [i.e. Fig 11]

Chang et al does not specifically disclose that "filling only pixels in the portion of the primitive that is inside the screen region." However, such limitation is shown in the teaching of Watanabe et al. (See Fig 1, Fig 2, Fig 9, [8]) [i.e. rasterizing objects [S10] after clipping [S8, S22, S24], "After clipping is performed on all the objects in this manner, rastering is performed on the objects includes, in whole or in part, in the view volume 2."] It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to incorporate the teaching of Watanabe et al into the teaching of Chang et al, in order to eliminate the unnecessary time of pixel filling process [i.e. rasterization] for the portion of primitives, where it will not be rendered in final image, as such improvement is also advantageously desirable in the teaching of Chang et al for saving total processing time with maximum efficiency.

Regarding claims 10-12 and 16-17, claims 10-12 and 16-17 are similar in scope to the claims 1-2 and 9, and thus the rejections to claims 1-2 and 9 hereinabove are also applicable to claims 10-12 and 16-17.

Regarding claim 3, Chang et al discloses that using X,Y coordinate system; and determining values of XSTART,YSTART,XEND,YEND for the primitive, Providing values of XLEFT,XRIGHT,YTOP,YBOTTOM for the screen region; and comparing the primitive values to the screen region values to determine if the primitive is totally outside the screen region. (See Fig 3a-3c, Fig 4a-4d, Fig 5, Fig 7a, Fig 8a, Fig 9a) ["a method for clipping a line segment boundary defined area [primitives] against a limiting plane [screen region] using the coordinate values of viewing region [42,152] and a primitive [40,150]"]

Regarding claims 7, Change et al further discloses that the steps of: defining a start point on an edge of the primitive; determining if the start point is outside the screen region; edge walking the edge of the primitive from the start point to a boundary of the screen region; span walking a portion of the primitive inside the screen region and filling each pixel in the portion of the primitive that is inside the screen region. (See Fig 3a-3c, Fig 4a-4d, Fig 5, Fig 7a, Fig 8a, Fig 9a)

Regarding claim 8, Chang et al discloses that the primitive is a triangle and the start point is a vertex of the triangle. (See Fig 11)

Regarding claim 21, Chang et al discloses that filling only pixels in the portion of the primitive that is inside the screen region ends when all pixels within the portion of the primitive inside the screen region have been filled. (See Fig 3)

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 18 is allowed.

Claims 4-6 and 13-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The present invention is directed to a computer system for rasterizing primitives. The above claims identifies the uniquely distinct features "Defining first and second x direction values of 0 and 1, respectively, for an x direction XDIR in the coordinate system as, respectively, left to right and right to left relative to the screen region, and defining first and second y direction values as 0 and 1, respectively, for a y direction YDIR in the coordinate system as, respectively, top to bottom and bottom to top; determining that the primitive is totally outside the screen area if at least one of the following is logically true given a start point X=XSTART and Y=YSTART fro the primitive; $XDIR \text{ AND } ((X < XLEFT) \text{ OR } (XEND > XRIGHT))$, $XDIR' \text{ AND } ((X > XRIGHT) \text{ OR } (XEND > XLEFT))$, $YDIR \text{ AND } ((Y < YTOP) \text{ OR } (YEND > YBOTTOM))$, $YDIR' \text{ AND } ((Y > YBOTTOM) \text{ OR } (YEND < YTOP))$. Incrementing Y if a first value, $((YDIR \text{ AND } (Y > YBOTTOM)) \text{ OR } (YDIR' \text{ AND } (Y < YTOP)))$, is logically true; Incrementing X if a first value, $((XDIR \text{ AND } (X > XRIGHT)) \text{ OR } (XDIR' \text{ AND } (X < XLEFT)))$, is logically true; repeating two above steps until the first and second values are not true, which identifies

a beginning of a portion of the primitive that is inside of the screen region. The filling is finished when one of the following is true: (XDIR AND (X<XLEFT)), (XDIR' AND (X>XRIGHT)), (YDIR AND (Y<YTOP)), (YDIR' AND (Y>YBOTTOM))." The closest prior art, Chang et al (5,040,130) discloses similar image processing system, either singularly or in combination, fail to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Response to Arguments/Amendment

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Specifically, in response to applicants argument that the cited references do not disclose "filling only pixels in the portion of the primitive that is inside the screen region", such limitation is shown in the newly submitted reference (Watanabe et al (US 2001/0013867)) (See Fig 1, Fig 2, Fig 9, [8]) [i.e. rasterizing objects [S10] after clipping [S8, S22, S24], "After clipping is performed on all the objects in this manner, rastering is performed on the objects includes, in whole or in part, in the view volume 2."]. See the rejection hereinabove.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel J. Chung whose telephone number is (703) 306-3419. He can normally be reached Monday-Thursday and alternate Fridays from 7:30am- 5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by

telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael, Razavi, can be reached at (703) 305-4713.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

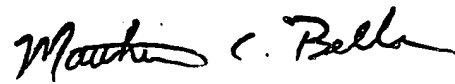
(703) 872-9306 (Central fax)

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

djc
May 12, 2005



MATTHEW C. BELLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600